

“§ 7. Marriage

“(a) For the purposes of any Federal law, rule, or regulation in which marital status is a factor, an individual shall be considered married if that individual’s marriage is between 2 individuals and is valid in the State where the marriage was entered into or, in the case of a marriage entered into outside any State, if the marriage is between 2 individuals and is valid in the place where entered into and the marriage could have been entered into in a State.

“(b) In this section, the term ‘State’ means a State, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or any other territory or possession of the United States.

“(c) For purposes of subsection (a), in determining whether a marriage is valid in a State or the place where entered into, if outside of any State, only the law of the jurisdiction applicable at the time the marriage was entered into may be considered.”.

SEC. 6. NO IMPACT ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AND CONSCIENCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act, or any amendment made by this Act, shall be construed to diminish or abrogate a religious liberty or conscience protection otherwise available to an individual or organization under the Constitution of the United States or Federal law.

(b) GOODS OR SERVICES.—Consistent with the First Amendment to the Constitution, nonprofit religious organizations, including churches, mosques, synagogues, temples, nondenominational ministries, interdenominational and ecumenical organizations, mission organizations, faith-based social agencies, religious educational institutions, and nonprofit entities whose principal purpose is the study, practice, or advancement of religion, and any employee of such an organization, shall not be required to provide services, accommodations, advantages, facilities, goods, or privileges for the solemnization or celebration of a marriage. Any refusal under this subsection to provide such services, accommodations, advantages, facilities, goods, or privileges shall not create any civil claim or cause of action.

SEC. 7. STATUTORY PROHIBITION.

(a) NO IMPACT ON STATUS AND BENEFITS NOT ARISING FROM A MARRIAGE.—Nothing in this Act, or any amendment made by this Act, shall be construed to deny or alter any benefit, status, or right of an otherwise eligible entity or person, including tax-exempt status, tax treatment, educational funding, or a grant, contract, agreement, guarantee, loan, scholarship, license, certification, accreditation, claim, or defense, provided such benefit, status, or right does not arise from a marriage.

(b) NO FEDERAL RECOGNITION OF POLYGAMOUS MARRIAGES.—Nothing in this Act, or any amendment made by this Act, shall be construed to require or authorize Federal recognition of marriages between more than 2 individuals.

SEC. 8. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this Act, or any amendment made by this Act, or the application of such provision to any person, entity, government, or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act, or any amendment made thereby, or the application of such provision to all other persons, entities, governments, or circumstances, shall not be affected thereby.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I have six requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate.

They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 15, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my defense fellow, Dustin Mondloch, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the 117th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KING. I also ask unanimous consent that the following interns from my office be granted floor privileges for today’s session: Mateus Voltolini, Timothy Ryan, Hayley Smith, and Colter Adams.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JOURNALISTS

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring journalists. A free, independent media is vital to our democracy. It is enshrined in our Constitution. We depend on reporters around the world to both tell the stories that have an impact on our day-to-day lives and dig for

those stories that might not be told otherwise.

Journalists are generally tenacious and dedicated. They ask the tough questions. They challenge special interests. They connect us with our communities and our world. They put themselves in harm’s way to tell the unvarnished truth, unfiltered by government propaganda, at a time when the world needs it more than ever, and too often, that comes at a cost.

Increasingly, journalists find themselves under attack, arrested, or targeted for simply reporting facts. Some even make the ultimate sacrifice to reveal the truth.

In March, I spoke on this floor about three talented, brave journalists who were killed while reporting on Vladimir Putin’s brutal invasion of Ukraine. Since then, at least nine other journalists have been killed in Ukraine, journalists who were covering this war.

In May, Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was killed while reporting on an Israeli military raid in Jenin in the West Bank. This danger is not something American journalists are immune from.

In September, Jeff German, a reporter with the Las Vegas Review-Journal, was murdered—was murdered—for his investigative reporting here in the United States of America.

These are only a few of the journalists who lost their lives this year while trying to uncover the truth.

Since Mahsa Amini’s death on September 16, Reporters Without Borders has found that “at least 42 journalists have been arrested throughout Iran.” The Committee to Protect Journalists reports that since the beginning of 2022—fewer than 11 months—60 journalists—6–0 journalists—have been killed.

Politicians in this country throw around all kinds of incendiary language describing journalists, making fun of them, demeaning them, contributing to this view too often that could lead to the injury or attacks or even murders of journalists.

We remember those who lost their lives. We recognize their unwavering commitment to the democratic ideals of truth and accuracy and transparency, a commitment so strong that they put their lives on the line—often putting truth before personal safety—to cover floods and hurricanes and the important stories from global war zones. We have a better understanding of what is happening in the world today because of journalists, because of journalism.

Our thoughts are with the families and the friends and the colleagues whose loved ones were killed in search of truth, but thoughts and prayers aren’t enough. We need to support efforts here and abroad to hold those who kill or even threaten journalists accountable.

That is why the work of organizations like Reporters Without Borders and the Committee to Protect Journalists—why organizations like that are

integral to ensuring our basic right to freedom of the press.

Earlier this month, we commemorated the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists. Attacks and threats against journalists are attacks and threats against all of us, attacks and threats to freedom of speech and expression itself.

I have called for the release of journalists unjustly detained in Egypt, Morocco, and elsewhere. I will keep calling for justice.

We honor the memories and the work of journalists best by defending the freedom of the press, defending the right to free speech, protecting journalists in their pursuit of the truth, and holding the regimes—no matter where they are—that attack journalists accountable. Today, we recommit ourselves to that fight.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

UKRAINE

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I come to the floor of the Senate tonight for the 25th consecutive week while the Senate has been in session to talk about the brutal and illegal and unprovoked war on Ukraine by Russia—Ukraine, a democratic nation, an ally of ours who only wants to live in peace with its neighbors.

A lot has happened in the last 6 weeks since we have been in session; however, I want to start by addressing some very serious news out of Poland this afternoon. Today, Russia launched another barbaric salvo of missile strikes against Ukrainian civilian infrastructure, including hitting civilian residences and power facilities.

According to reports, during this bombardment today, two missiles went into Poland and struck a Polish village 5 miles from the Ukrainian border, killing two people. Several officials, including a senior U.S. intelligence official and President Zelenskyy of Ukraine himself, have stated that these missiles were Russian missiles.

Now, remember, Poland is a NATO ally. There are U.S. troops in Poland. The Poles have been beside us in Afghanistan and Iraq. They are strong allies. If this is true that Russia launched missiles that, intentionally or unintentionally, struck NATO territory and killed civilians, then NATO's response must be strong and unequivocal. And it must be swift, as soon as we get the proper intelligence from what happened.

At the very least, I believe this is an opportunity for the administration to remove what were already misguided restrictions on U.S. military aid to Ukraine. Ukraine needs better aircraft, as an example, to be able to clear its skies of these Russian missiles and the Russian drones, many of which are now being procured from Iran.

And if Russian missiles are now striking NATO territory, then it is clearly in NATO's interest to provide

these aircraft to Ukraine. The planes don't have to come from the United States. They may well come from other allies. But the F-16s or F-15s that would be especially useful in this situation would probably have to be approved by the United States before any conveyance could occur. We should provide that approval.

Ukraine also needs longer range missiles. They have been asking for what are called ATACMS missiles that enable them to strike Russian missile launchers in enemy territory, many in Ukraine, in places like the Donbas or the southern part of Ukraine or Crimea. The Ukrainian missiles currently cannot reach those missile launchers that the Russians are using. So the Russians have these long-range missiles, and they don't. This is to avoid more destruction, more tragic circumstances like we saw today, more destruction of civilian targets, and more death.

And, lastly, Ukraine needs other help too. They need more air defense systems. They need more armored vehicles like Abrams main battle tanks, which have the ability to push Russian forces out of its territory and end the Kremlin threat to the free world.

We should be patient and let the experts determine exactly what happened today in Poland, but if these initial reports prove true that Russian missiles struck NATO territory today, then our response must make it very clear to Vladimir Putin through our actions that this aggression will not be tolerated.

I think the reason we are seeing these barrages of missiles, by the way, and drone attacks from Russia on these civilian targets is precisely because Ukraine is winning on the battlefield. So military to military, against all odds, and with the help of the United States and 50 other countries around the world that have provided military assistance to Ukraine, they are making steady progress in this crucial battle for the very survival of Ukraine. I think that is why President Putin is responding as he is.

Two weeks ago, I traveled to Ukraine with my colleague from across the aisle Senator CHRIS COONS. It was my 10th visit to Ukraine since the first Russian invasion in 2014 when they took Crimea and parts of the Donbas. It is my fourth visit since Russia's war on Ukraine, which started in February of this year.

While we were there, we were able to see how the U.S. and allied help is making a huge difference in Ukraine's stunning battlefield successes since my last visit just a couple of months ago. However, we also heard and saw firsthand the clear evidence of horrific crimes that Russia continues to commit against the people of Ukraine.

Across the frontline, Russia has suffered major setbacks at the hands of Ukrainian soldiers, particularly here in the northeast, where the Ukrainians have taken over important strategic

areas, and also down here in the southern part of Ukraine, southeast, where the Ukrainian troops have recently taken over almost all of this blue area, right up to the Nepa River, and actually taken the city of Kherson. Kherson—or Cherson, as it is called in Ukrainian—is a really important city.

Unfortunately, Vladimir Putin, because of these successes, again, has vented his frustration against the innocent civilians of Ukraine. He loses on the battlefield, and he is striking with more missiles and more drones behind the frontlines. In particular, over the past month or so, his military has been striking infrastructure—energy infrastructure, water infrastructure—in various cities of Ukraine. This is a cruel attempt to leave innocent Ukrainian civilians without access to water and in the cold and dark ahead of the upcoming winter.

President Putin cannot defeat the military of Ukraine on the battlefield so now he is turning to barbaric and cowardly tactics to try to terrorize and defeat the civilians of Ukraine. In Kyiv, Senator COONS and I saw the tragic evidence of these cowardly acts. We went to the headquarters of the Ukrainian state-owned power company called Ukrenergo. Ukrenergo is the place where the Russian missiles and drone attacks have focused in the city of Kyiv to try to take out their power but also power in the surrounding area, and we saw that damage that had been done just 2 weeks prior to our arrival.

This example is a situation where there was a control center here, a command center, that was attacked by Russian missiles—again, just a couple of weeks before this photo was taken. What we were told by the CEO of the company, Volodymyr Kudrytsky, is that Russia is trying to break the morale of the Ukrainian people but also literally break Ukraine's energy infrastructure in half. The bottom line is what they are trying to do is create an unpowered eastern part of Ukraine that is not able to access the power that is being generated here in the western part of Ukraine.

We saw this when we were in Kyiv. We saw rolling blackouts. We went to a dinner that night with Ukrainian Parliamentarians, and as we came up to the restaurant, of course, it was entirely dark. We had our dinner meeting by flashlight.

Tonight, much of Kyiv is without electricity. Ukraine needs to be able to defend itself from these barbaric tactics. In our meeting with him, President Zelenskyy passionately asked the United States to help more to obtain these air defense systems they need to avoid these kinds of attacks.

Current Ukrainian air defenses are able to shoot down an impressive number of Russian missiles and Iranian drones, stopping maybe 60 percent, on average, of these weapons. But those that get through are causing enormous damage to civilian targets, including infrastructure, and they are killing